

was built for the accommodation of the great concourse of pilgrims and devotees who were attracted to the abbey church, by its peculiar sanctity, as the place where the remains of the murdered monarch, Edward the Second, had been interred, more than a century previously.

It is recorded of Edward the Second that, coming to Gloucester about the year 1319, he was honourably received by Abbot Thokey and the Convent; and, being present at an entertainment given in the Abbot's Hall, observed the pictures of his predecessors, and jocosely inquired if his own was among them. The abbot, in something of a prophetic spirit, answered, that he hoped he should have him in a more honourable place. This actually occurred; for, when the king was murdered, the monasteries of Bristol, Kingswood, and Malmesbury refused to receive the royal corpse, through fear of Mortimer and the queen; but Abbot Thokey brought the dead body from Berkeley Castle in his own carriage to the monastery of Gloucester, where it was received by the members of the convent in procession, and buried on the north side of the choir, near the great altar.

The writer then gave some particulars of the death of the king, and showed the advantages which resulted to the monastery from the burial of the king. Funds flowed in and enabled the abbots to execute great works.

The following passage from Archdeacon Furney's MSS. shews that this inn belonged entirely to the Abbey:—

"In or about Abbot Seabroke's time (1450—1457), John Twynning, then called a laudable man, and a monk of this abbey, built from the foundation the *Great Inn*, called the New Inn, in the upper Northgate-street, to the great profit and advantage of the abbey, which, according to tradition, was intended for the reception of pilgrims."

The building was spacious in extent, and constructed of ponderous and durable materials. The different apartments surrounded two square courts, and, as indicated by present appearances, were provided with stairs, which ascended from the courts and communicated with two tiers of galleries. These led to numerous large and small dormitories, or sleeping rooms. The building is commonly said to be constructed entirely of chestnut-tree timber. Almost half of its material is wood, cut into large beams, and placed horizontally, perpendicularly, and diagonally, with the intermediate parts filled either with brick-nogging or lath and plaster. The whole building extends 137 feet from east to west, exclusive of the stables, &c., which continue 72 feet further. The court yard seems admirably adapted for Chaucer's Canterbury Pilgrims, and Shakespeare's carriers, in the play of Henry IV.

The paper was illustrated by some excellent diagrams, and Mr. Britton, at the close, added some remarks on timber houses generally, of which there are many good specimens in Gloucester.

Mr. Godwin pointed the attention of those who were now in Gloucester for the first time, to a part of the, so called, *New Inn* which had not been modernised,—the flank in New Inn-lane, which exhibits some good carving of the fifteenth century. Relative to the face of the upper stories of timber, each projecting before the other, although not wise in a sanitary point of view, he said it was in a constructional one, as the woodwork was thus protected.

Mr. Jerdan, with reference to the size and expenses of the ancient Inns said, "in Scotland Acts of Parliament were passed, with a view to their protection, preventing the exercise of private hospitality."

A paper on Monkish miracles, as illustrative of history, by Mr. Thomas Wright, M.A., followed; and then a number of small articles of the Roman period, discovered near Gloucester, were exhibited by Mr. Purnell. These included a letter padlock, supposed to be a modern invention.

† Britton's "Gloucester Cathedral," p. 30.

A paper by Mr. Pretty, of Northampton (read by Mr. C. Bailey, F.S.A.), on a curious enamel on the poor's-box in Smarden Church, Kent, with a notice of the structure, concluded the business of the evening. We confine ourselves to the latter part of it.

SMARDEN CHURCH.

This church is popularly known as "The Barn of Kent." Hasted's description of this building is extremely scanty; he states, that the church is dedicated to Saint Michael, consists of one aisle or body, and a chancel; the former is of a most curious structure, being 40 feet wide, with a span roof over it, and singularly constructed. At the west end, is a tower steeple, with a beacon turret. He might have added a north and south porch to the account. Until within the last half century, the roof was open to the timbering, giving it probably an appearance congenial to the local term. Previous to the introduction of the chancel arch, when the church was ceiled, the building must have appeared in perspective from west to east as one gigantic lengthened roof, no break excepting that of the roof loft being perceptible to the eye. In the chancel, near the south buttress, there is a small narrow window closed up, which appears to have opened into the interior near the right of the altar at a very unusual place. In the usual position there is a piscina, cinque-foil headed, with bowl quite perfect, a credence-shelf, and above a smaller one of wood. Opposite, on the north side, there are appearances of the arch of the Aumbry-locker. There are three sedilia, the higher arch cinque-foil, and the other two tre-foil; the seat is of oak. To the right is a circular bracket, with a corresponding one on the north side. There are two windows on the north and two on the south sides, of two light tre-foil and a broad quatre-foil opening in the head; and at the east end there is a window three light cinque-foil, with quatre-foil and side piercing above. Over this window, on the exterior, under the gable point, is a stone with a cross pierced through, and which, before the ceiling was added, must have been seen from the interior. The arch which divides the chancel from the nave, as before observed, is modern, as is evident by the position of the lower part of the roof-loft screen, which is left extending considerably beyond; as well as by the appearance of the brick work behind the panelling of the pew on the left side. At the east end of the nave, on each side, there is a *teredos*, embattled at the top, and ornamented with a doublecorbel table, trefoil headed. On the right, or south side, there are the steps in the roof-loft tower, and opening internally above the door. Three decorated windows, similar to those in the chancel, of two lights, originally gave light on each side of the nave; but one on the north, near the altar, and two on the south side, have been since enlarged to three light perpendicular windows, to give additional light to this part of the church: probably done at the time the tower was built. The pulpit was originally placed on the north side, between the windows, to the right of the north door.

The tower of this church is of perpendicular architecture, of three stages, bold and lofty in design. It was entered from the nave by a noble perpendicular arch, now closed up by the erection of a gallery, theatrical in fashion, reaching by a series of pews to the ground. Before this addition was made, this part of the church must have been enlightened by the west window of three lights over the door in the belfry, as frequently occurs in the perpendicular towers of this neighbourhood. The staircase, or beacon turret, is at the north-east corner of the tower.

Length of chancel:—		ft.	in.
Within the altar-step	.....	14	3
To chancel arch	.....	26	0
From chancel arch to 1st step in the nave	.....	6	3
Nave	.....	70	0
		116	6

Width of chancel	.....	18	2
Ditto, nave, from wall to wall	.....	35	4
Tower, 18 feet by 13, exclusive of 3 ft. 6 in. in the tower arch	.....	

Hasted's admeasurement was probably to the recessed part at the windows.

It is worthy of remark, that the walls are very thick in the piers between windows, by which the roof is ably sustained without any buttresses; those set on at the corners of the nave and chancel diagonally are merely for ornament.

On Tuesday, a large accession of members arrived, and at eleven o'clock the room in which the meetings were held was crowded to hear a paper on the cathedral, by Mr. Cressy—the result of a very careful examination of the building for this purpose. Mr. Monckton Milnes, M.P., was in the chair. Mr. Cressy sought to prove, in opposition to the general opinion, that a great part of the existing structure is anterior to the Norman conquest, and supported his views with great ability. We are unable to assent at once to his opinion. The paper, however, was one of so much interest, as to demand a more lengthened notice than we could now give it: we therefore postpone it till next week, when it will appear at some length. At the close of it, a discussion ensued, in which a number of members took part, and Mr. Niblett, the honorary secretary of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, laid before the meeting a transcript of Abbott Frowcester's chronicles, connected with the abbey, made by himself. Mr. Niblett mentioned that a copy of the chronicles, which belonged to the chapter-room of Gloucester Cathedral, was missing, and justly urged that search should immediately be made for it. The meeting then adjourned to the cathedral, under the guidance of Mr. Cressy and Mr. Britton, and minutely examined the whole fabric. A more interesting cathedral can scarcely be found; it offers examples of every period, and presents a series of most instructive lessons to the architect who knows how to observe.

From the cathedral, a number of members proceeded to examine, amongst other edifices, the church of St. Mary de Crypt, recently restored through the exertions of the Rev. A. Sayers, the rector, and now the most interesting object in the city, after the cathedral. Of this, we shall speak more at length hereafter.

Relative to the dinner which followed, we will mention that Mr. Guise, the chairman of the Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, addressed the members, merely that we may record the fact that this gentlemen has munificently presented to the city of Gloucester a very valuable collection of objects of natural history, as the foundation of a museum; and that the corporation have determined on the erection of a proper building to receive them.

At half-past eight in the evening, the members again met, Mr. Monckton Milnes in the chair, and a paper was read on the form of arches, illustrated by reference to Gloucester Cathedral, by Mr. John Adey Repton, an abstract of which we shall give. In connection with this, Mr. Godwin expressed a desire to draw the attention of the authorities to the present state of the cathedral. He said he ventured upon it with considerable hesitation, because it might be said that the association had no right to come into a city where they were kindly received, and find fault. It seemed to him, however, so important that the building should be immediately placed under the supervision of an architect, that he threw aside personal scruples, and made this public appeal to the Chapter in behalf of all who were interested in the preservation of our ancient buildings, and he hoped it would be received in the spirit in which it was offered.

An interesting discussion followed, on some points in Mr. Cressy's paper, in which Mr. A. White dissented from his views.

Mr. Wright made some observations on the